

Desire to be

a community arts organisation seeking new practices to create a sense of belonging through reimagining local community culture.

Visioning

how to transform local civil society through the energy of art and culture.

Mission

to practice community art and refresh living heritage by celebrating local identity, adding unique and new histories together, and revitalizing public spaces and sense of belonging.



Acting through

locally curated programmes of community arts with people in Loughlinstown, Ballybrack and Charlemont that are tailored to meet specific needs, when funding allowed.

Figure 1
Chloé Mazzani, Hotel du Nord,
Marseille and Soundings applicaiton
collaborator. Photo: Stephan Lefranc.

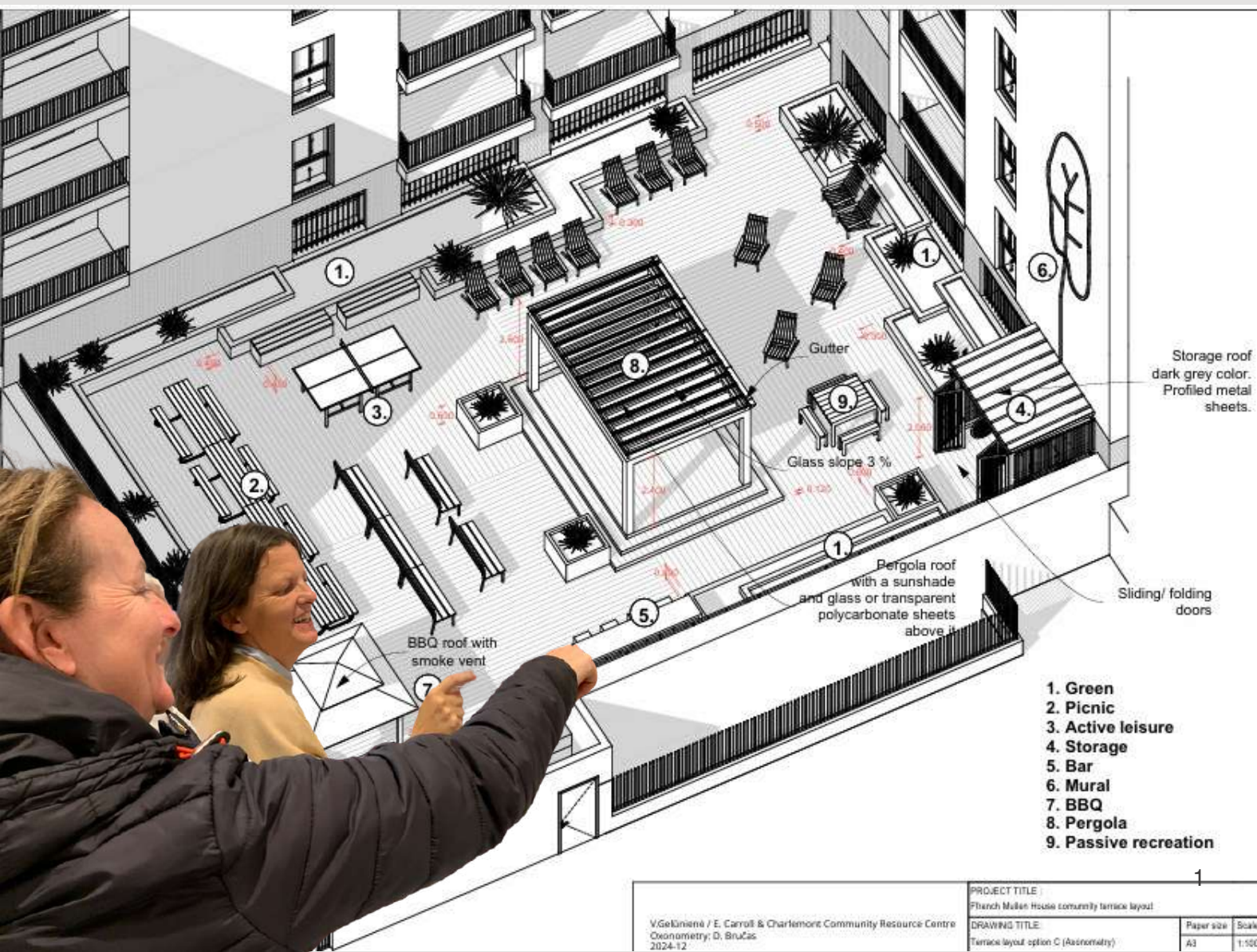
Figure 2
Cherry Tree, Charlemont. Photo: EC

Enjoy meaning to take possession of public space

If placemaking at [Charlemont Square](#) Dublin is possible, it requires resident-led, small change action. In May, Blue Drum was invited by the TK1 Community Resource Centre to reimagine an under-used outdoor deck space [20m x 30m]. Artists, Vita and Ed facilitated five workshops and numerous conversations to gather community ideas for a new design. Two alternative visions emerged, and after a four-week public exhibition, residents agreed on their preferred vision: a culture garden that uniquely combines the 'green' with arts and wellbeing. In 2025, work begins with resident-driven gardening workshops and mentoring for all ages. [Read](#)

Figure 3/4

Charlemont Deck Team members
Antoinette Carroll and Siobhán Ryan.
Charlemont Deck Design by D. Bručas



Share

In February 2024, following a year of art practice-based research, there was an exhibition of the results of the Arts Council and Southside Partnership's Creative Places Loughlinstown and Ballybrack. [Watch](#)



Figure 5

Community Tour with Sharon Perry, dlr Women's Collective Coordinator Photo: VG

Figure 6

Research findings exhibition, Creative Places Ballybrack and Loughlinstown. February 2024. Photo: EC

Create Ballybrack and Loughlinstown

During the summer, "Small Change," a dlr Creative Ireland project in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, put a focus on Ennel and Inagh Courts part of a complex of 1970s estates inspired by village garden design with protected green, pedestrian spaces and archways. Through workshops and the development of a walking tour, residents explored their architectural heritage and ways to re-enhance public spaces. The initiative gained dlr Council commitment and backing from local Councillors to undertake a wider walkability audit and public space rethink for its 50th anniversary in 2027. Interested? Read about the tour and the practice. [Tour & Read](#)



Safeguarding legacy

The occasional series entitled *Eyewitness: Voices from the field of community art* continued in 2024 with the voice of Mark McCollum from Donegal. [Listen](#)

Governance

The 2024 Annual Accounts are available here: [Link](#) Blue Drum has an island of Ireland board with Mary Doheny (Dublin), Fiona Woods (Clare), Jim Aherne (Galway) and Sheelagh Colclough (Belfast).

Contact Details

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Funding

for an a not for profit organisation is precarious. The following applications were made:

1. Title: Small Change: dlr Creative Ireland bursary. Award: €3,500
2. Title: Irish-India Residency. The Arts Council. Award: €0
3. Title: Small Change: Health Placemaking for Charlemont Community Resource Centre. Amount: €10,250
4. Title: Roots for Dublin City Council Community Arts Fund. Amount: €11,000.
5. Title: Roots Campaign for Community Foundation Ireland with TK2. Award: Pending
6. Title: Soundings for EU Citizens CERV Remembrance. Award: €0

**Finally, in memoriam
Ailbhe Murphy, whose
contribution was
immense.**

Figure 7
Ailbhe Murphy, member of artist team
for Blue Drum's City (Re)Searches
Belfast 20th to 23rd February 2013.
hoto: Skrandis

